

Book Review: Tattoo by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

By Rachel Loveday

Everyone deep down inside wants a supernatural power of some sort. Whether they want to use it to rid the world of evil, or simply just to get through the day, or even to use it to get back at an annoying classmate, co-worker or family member. It's something we've all wanted at one time or another.

Jennifer Lynn Barnes'; *Tattoo* is the story about four best friends. Delia, the fashion goddess. Annabelle, the quiet voice of reason. Zo, the tomboy and Annabelle's cousin and Bailey, the high school klutz and narrator of the novel. They are at the mall, doing their weekly shopping, when they are drawn to a booth, that by appearances sells occult items. They are drawn in by a saleslady who chooses specific items for each of them, with the exception of Bailey, who has to choose for herself. Bailey, after accidentally pulling open a drawer, causing its contents to go everywhere, chooses four temporary tattoos.

Bailey decides to share the tattoos with the girls. Delia puts hers on her midriff, Annabelle puts hers on the back of her neck, Zo puts hers on her foot and Delia helps Bailey put hers on her lower back. They innocently place the tattoos on themselves to look even cooler for the impending school dance on the following Monday, but with these tattoos come four individual powers for all four girls and the responsibility to use them to fight an evil murderous being that is after them all. And due to the fact that the tattoos are only temporary. They only have three days to conquer this being.

The girls are quick studies. They learn to master their powers quickly as well as discover who and what is after them. An evil force by the name of Alecca who threatened vengeance on the whole world after finding out her love interest was in love with her friend. The girls ultimately have a final battle with Alecca in order to save the world. But despite the imminent and very real supernatural danger surrounding them, real life doesn't stop in its tracks with Delia wanting to chase after hot boys and Bailey's dreams of dancing with her love interest, Kane at the dance as well as her mother's concerns intervening.

Although I enjoyed *Tattoo*, due to the short space of time that the novel was set in, I found the speed of events happening way too fast and because of this; I found some parts of the novel hard to follow.

I also felt that the girls, as smart as they prove to be, it seemed that they learnt how to use their powers way too quickly and I found it a little too unrealistic.

I also found that after reading about the cryptic clues from the tattoos, the voices in Bailey's head and Zo's visions, I was expecting a dramatic and even a slightly bloody

battle and I was a little disappointed with the anti-climatic battle and the ending was a little too neat.

I also felt that at nineteen that I was too old to read the book and be able to fully appreciate it. Therefore I feel that this book would be a good read for any teenage girl aged thirteen to sixteen who need an escape from the drama of everyday life and a reminder that any girl can be powerful. Magically or mortally.